

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Blue Ribbon Task Force

MEMORANDUM

Phil Isenberg, *Chair*
Isenberg/O'Haren, Government Relations

William Anderson
Westrec Marina Management, Inc.

Meg Caldwell
Stanford Law School

Ann D'Amato
Los Angeles City Attorney's Office

Susan Golding
The Golding Group, Inc.

Dr. Jane Pisano
Natural History Museum of L.A. County

Cathy Reheis-Boyd
Western States Petroleum Association

Douglas P. Wheeler
Hogan & Hartson, LLP

John J. Kirlin, *Executive Director*

To: MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force
From: John Kirlin, Executive Director
Subject: Administrative report
Date: November 20, 2006

Work continues to support the Central Coast Project and to prepare for future study regions. This report emphasizes activities which are supported with Initiative funds. Many other activities are also underway. For example, the Department is taking the lead in developing proposed regulations for the recommended Central Coast MPAs and is selecting individuals to fill recently authorized positions which will be critical to long term MLPA implementation. And the Department and the Ocean Protection Council are developing plans to spend the \$8 million in funds jointly allocated which support both MLPA and MLMA. The OPC is allocating funds to support baseline data collection, mapping for future study regions and to launch a science institute.

Support of the MLPA Central Coast Project

A. CEQA analysis

The firm of Jones and Stokes Associates, Inc. was selected to complete the CEQA analyses, with initiative funding. The draft EIR is now available for a 45-day public review and comment period. John Ugoretz of the California Department of Fish and Game is managing the contract.

B. Assistance in design of effective baseline data collection programs

The MLPA Baseline Science Management Panel (BSMP), an Initiative-supported panel of scientists, is nearing completion of a priority list of baseline data collection that will support long-term monitoring and adaptive management of MPAs on the central coast. A report of their work from project manager Michael DeLapa is attached. This work will inform an RFP process and allocation of funds by the California Ocean Protection Council scheduled for early 2007. It should also inform decisions by other possible public and private funders.

C. Assistance in development of a long-term monitoring plan for proposed central coast MPAs.

Building on the work of the BSMP, a long-term monitoring plan is being drafted. This plan will be part of the materials on the central coast MPAs provided by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to the California Fish and Game Commission. Mary Bergen, a member of the BSMP and retired DFG scientist, is preparing the plan. John Ugoretz is also overseeing this work.

Support for Future MLPA Implementation

A. Support for core staff during transition period

At the request of the secretary of the California Resources Agency, contracts are being prepared to extend the work of six individuals through June 2007. Those individuals are John J. Kirlin, Melissa Miller-Henson, Mary Gleason (part time), Amy Boone, Evan W. Fox and Paulo Serpa. Mary Gleason, Amy Boone, Evan Fox and Paulo Serpa are developing data layers and materials for regional profiles and undertake other assignments as needed.

B. Additional socioeconomic data acquisition and organization for future study regions

As in the MLPA Central Coast Project, we anticipate gaps in socioeconomic data for any future study region. To test the observation that data exists beyond typical aggregate government data sources, we contracted three efforts to determine what is available in analyses of ocean-oriented activities by local governments, chambers of commerce, students at local universities and colleges, local not-for-profits and other sources. This examination of existing data sets will also better inform decisions regarding any new socio economic data collection. Amy Boone is managing contracts with:

Manta Consulting: Local, county, and association of government documents for Point Conception to the border with Mexico.

Gabriela Goldfarb: State and federal regulatory documents, such as environmental impact statements, beginning with Pigeon Point to Point Arena, followed by Point Conception to the border with Mexico.

MPA Center: Literature reviews of published materials, doctoral dissertations, masters' theses; local, county and association of government documents from Pigeon Point to Point Arena and reviews of reports by non-governmental organizations. Major emphasis is on Pigeon Point to Point Arena.

C. Assistance in determining appropriate incorporation of socioeconomic considerations into MLPA designation and management

Michael Harty, who served earlier as a lessons learned consultant, is developing materials to assist the California Fish and Game Commission in addressing this issue. He is preparing (a) an accurate description of what socioeconomic information and analyses were available in the MLPA Initiative processes (and identifying instances where they were clearly used) and (b) developing a decision memo that identifies decision criteria for use of socioeconomic information and analyses and identifies the range of alternatives for such work. John Kirlin manages the contract.

D. Developing decision support tools for possible use in future study regions

A contract with UC San Diego, UC Davis, Ecotrust and the University of Queensland supports teams of researchers developing and testing ways to make modeling of population sustainability and incorporation of richer data (including socioeconomic data) into Marxan optimizing models. Intermediate work products from this contract were presented to the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team in November. John Kirlin manages this contract.